



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

April 13, 2005

**FLEA MARKET GUN VENDOR CONVICTED OF
SELLING FIREARMS TO A CONVICTED FELON**

ORLANDO, FLORIDA - A jury in U.S. District Court on Tuesday found JAMES WILLARD PRESCOTT, 65, of Mt. Dora, guilty of two counts of sale of a firearm to a prohibited person (convicted felon). The maximum penalty Prescott faces is ten years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on each count. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 6, 2005 before the Honorable John Antoon II, United States District Judge.

Prescott was indicted by a federal grand jury on February 2, 2005. According to the evidence presented at trial, Prescott routinely sold firearms from a weekend vending table at a Lake County area flea market. In March and April 2003, Prescott sold handguns and ammunition to a convicted felon working in cooperation with federal law enforcement agents. Under federal law, a person convicted of a felony is prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm or ammunition.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office and ATF. This is another case prosecuted as a part the

Department of Justice program “Project Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Special Assistant United States Attorney Greg Konieczka.